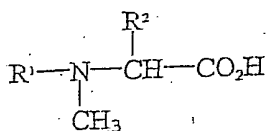


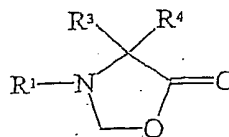
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A compound of formula I or II:



I

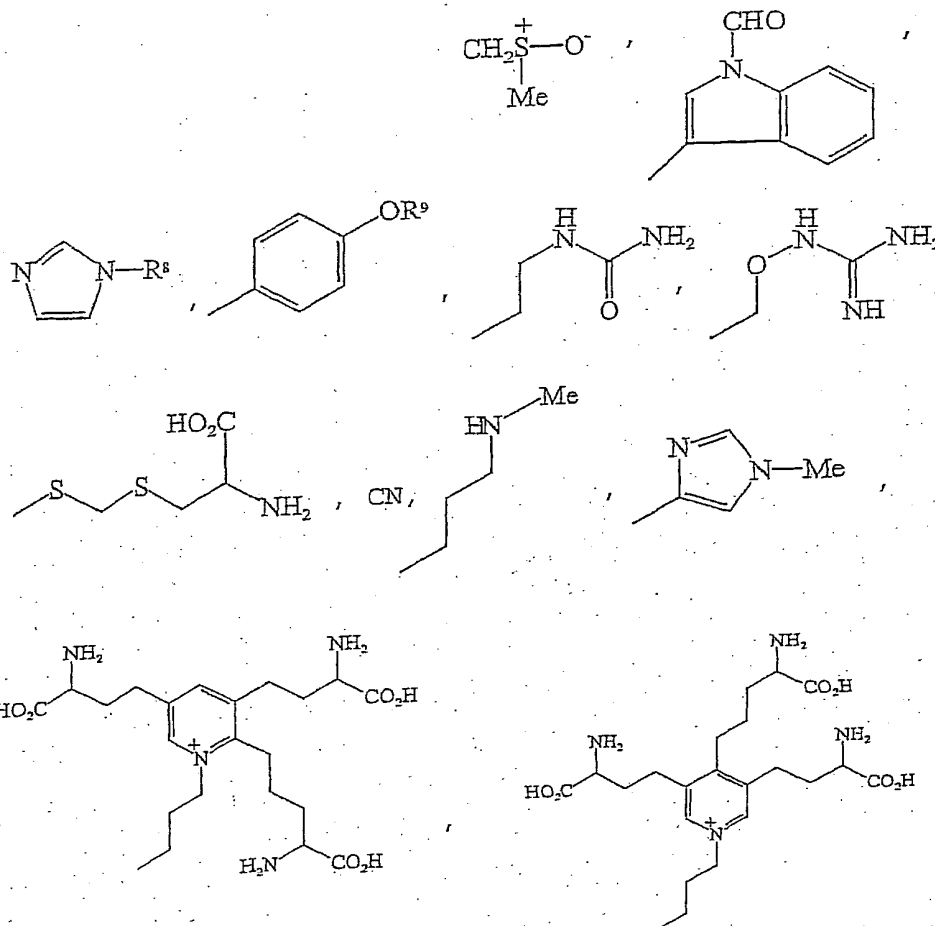


II

in which

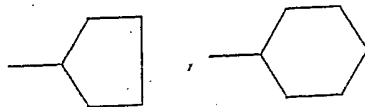
R¹ is an N-protecting group or a peptide;

R² is CHCH₃OAc or CHR⁵R⁶ in which R⁵ is hydrogen and R⁶ is OAc, CONH₂, SBn,

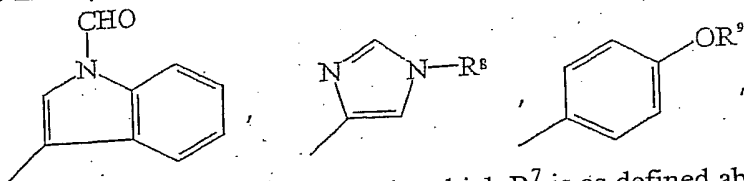


CO₂R⁷ or CH₂CO₂R⁷ in which R⁷ is a carboxyl protecting group ; and

R³ is CHCH₃OAc,



or CHR⁵R⁶ in which R⁵ is as defined above and R⁶ is OAc, SBn, CONHTrt,



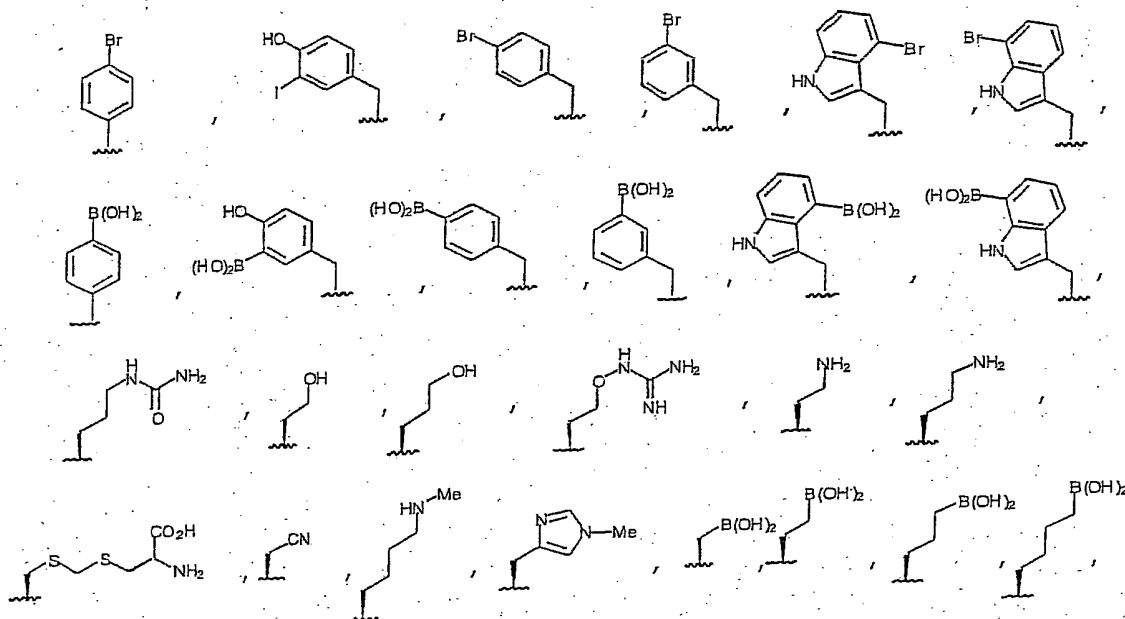
CO₂R⁷, CHCO₂R⁷, CH₂CH₃ or CH=CH₂ in which R⁷ is as defined above, R⁸ is a histidine protecting group and R⁹ is a phenol protecting group;

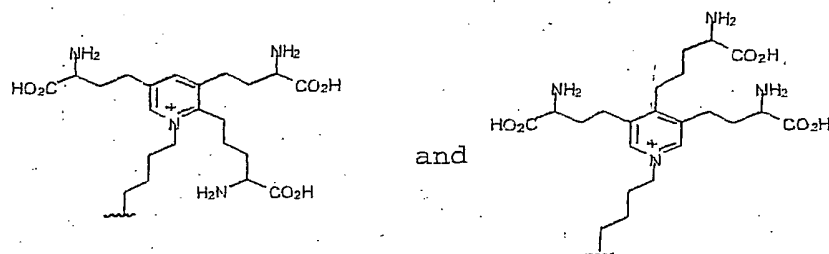
R⁴ is hydrogen or R⁴ is methyl when R³ is OAc;

R³ together with R⁴ forms cyclopentyl; or

R² and R³ independently represent optionally protected amino acid side chains

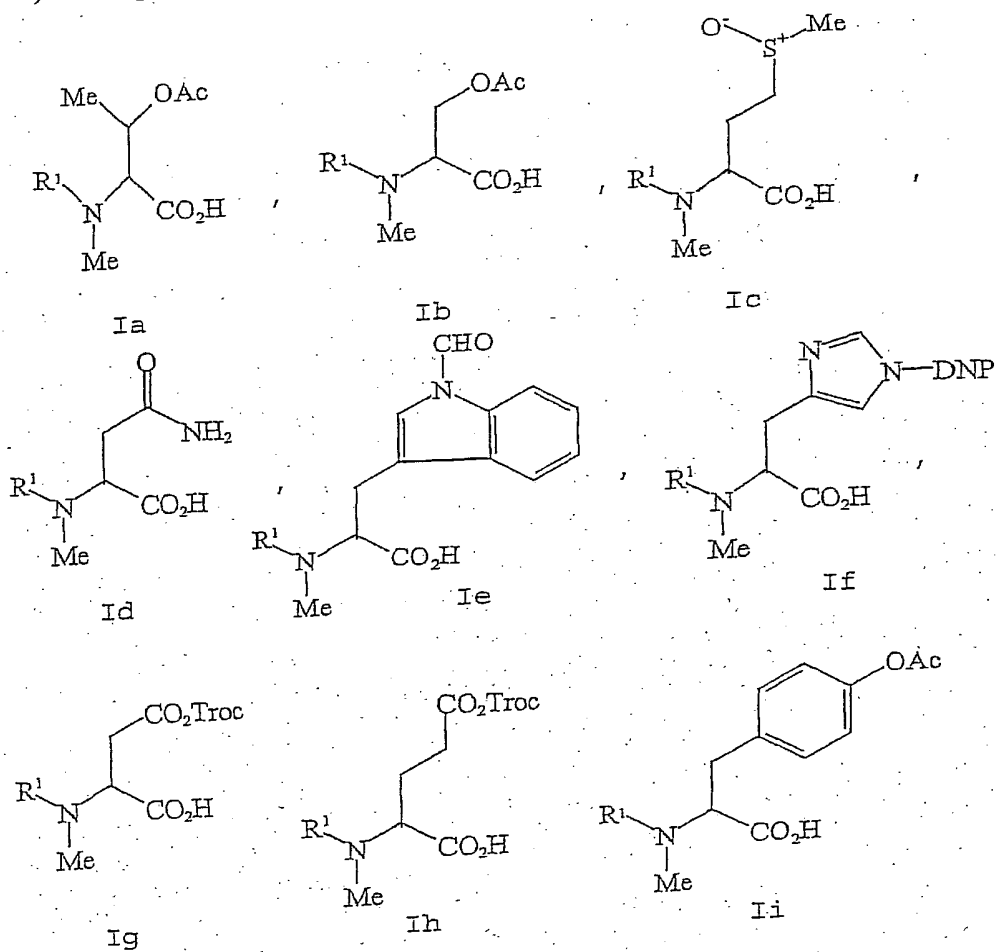
selected from:

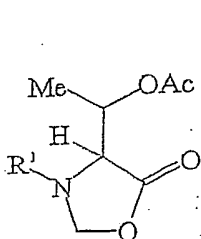




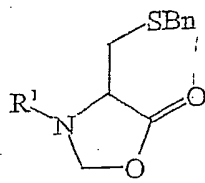
salts, hydrates, solvates, derivatives, tautomers and/or isomers thereof.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, which is selected from:

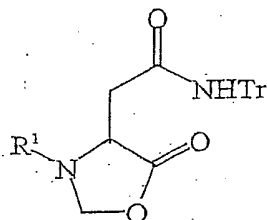




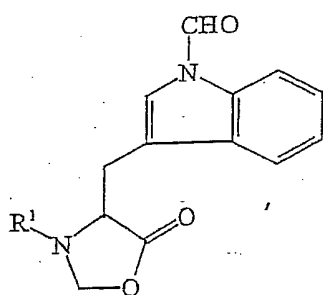
IIa



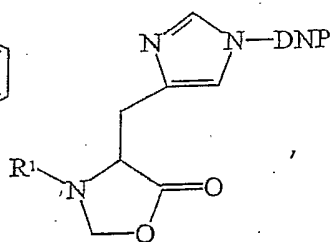
IIb



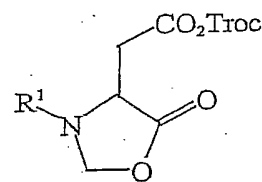
IIc



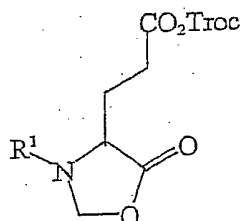
IIId



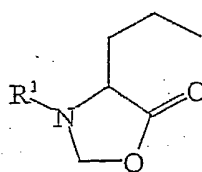
IIe



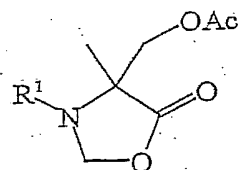
IIIf



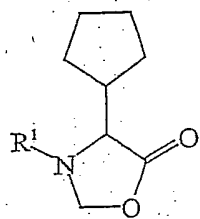
IIIg



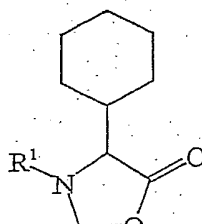
IIh



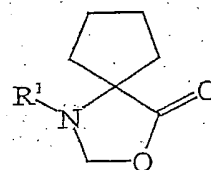
IIi



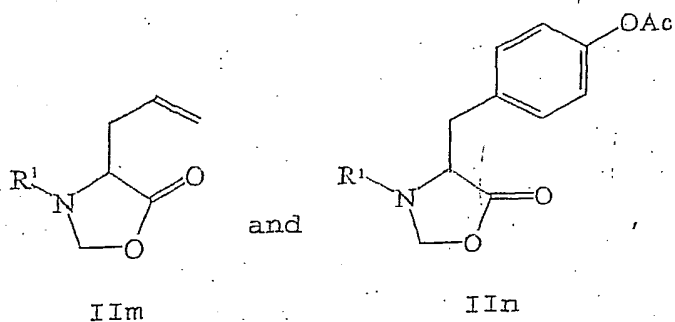
IIj



IIk



IIl



in which R¹ is as defined in claim 1.

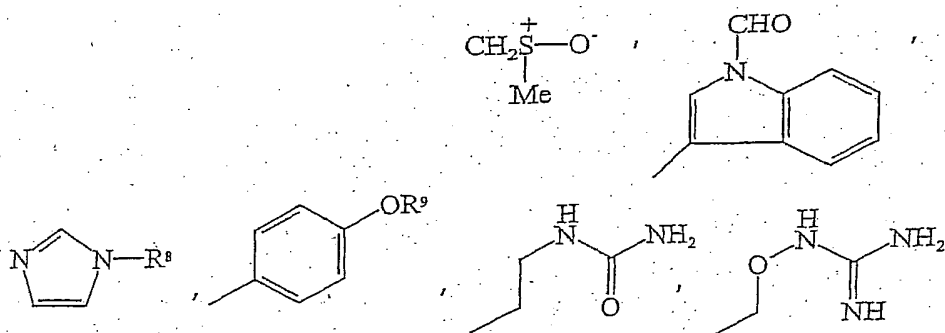
3. (Currently amended) A process for preparing the compound of formula I as defined in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ which comprises reductive cleavage of the compound of formula II as defined in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~.

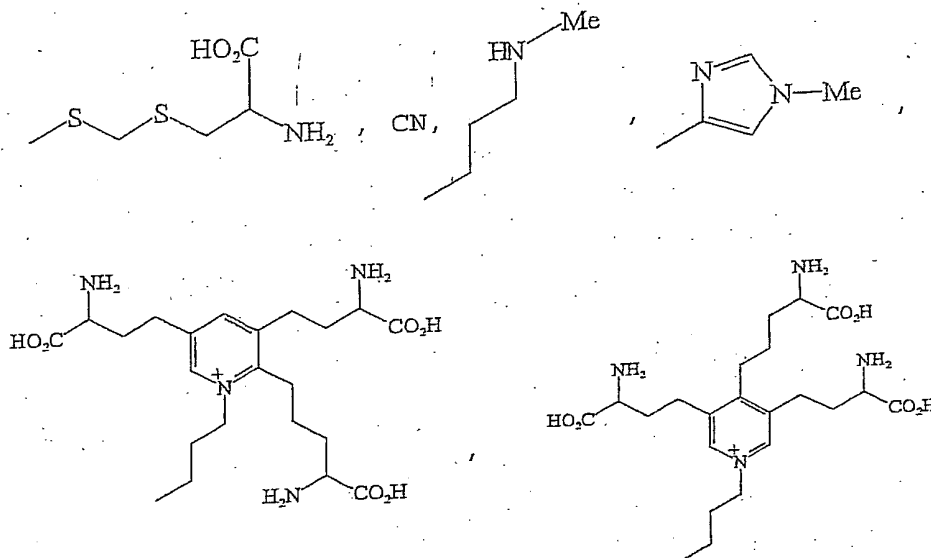
4. (Original) A process according to claim 3 in which the reductive cleavage employs trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) as the acid and triethylsilane (Et₃SiH) as the reductant.

5. (Currently amended) A process for preparing the compound of formula I or II as defined in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ when

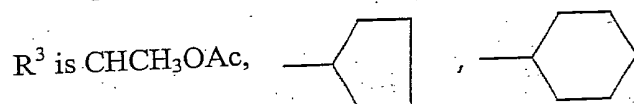
R¹ is an N-protecting group or a peptide;

R² is CHCH₃OAc or CHR⁵R⁶ in which R⁵ is hydrogen and R⁶ is OAc, CONH₂, SBn,

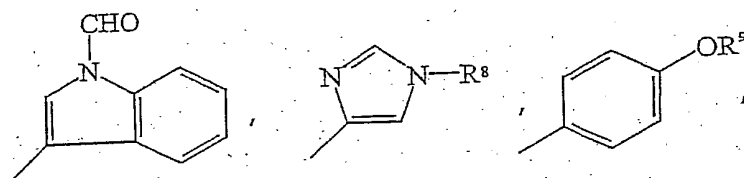




CO_2R^7 or $\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{R}^7$ in which R^7 is a carboxyl protecting group; and



or CHR^5R^6 in which R^5 is as defined above and R^6 is OAc , SBn , CONHTrt ,

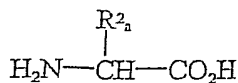


CO_2R^7 CHCO_2R^7 , CH_2CH_3 or $\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$ in which R^7 is as defined above, R^8 is a histidine protecting group and R^9 is a phenol protecting group;

R^4 is hydrogen or R^4 is methyl when R^3 is OAc ;

R^3 together with R^4 forms cyclopentyl; which comprises the steps of:

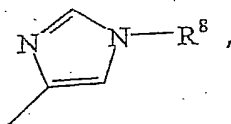
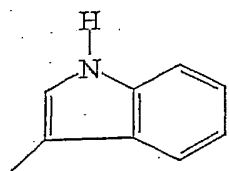
(a) converting a compound of formula III



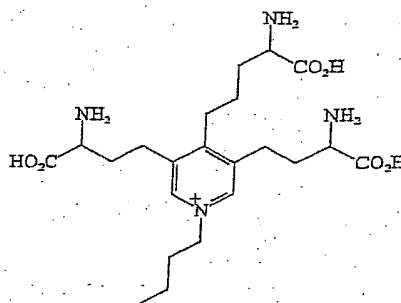
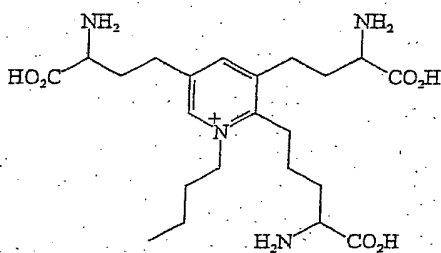
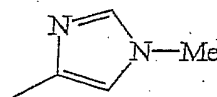
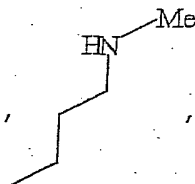
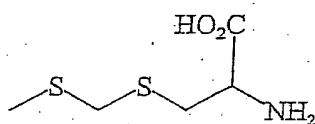
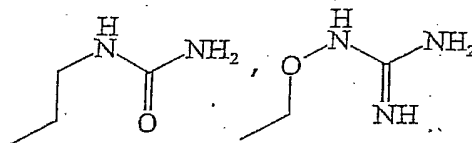
III

in which

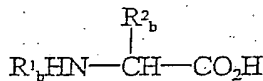
R^2_a is CHOHMe or CHR^5R^6_a in which R is as defined above and R^6_a is OH, SH, CONH_2 ,



in which R^8 is as defined above,



CO_2H or CH_2CONH_2 or salts thereof into a compound of formula IV

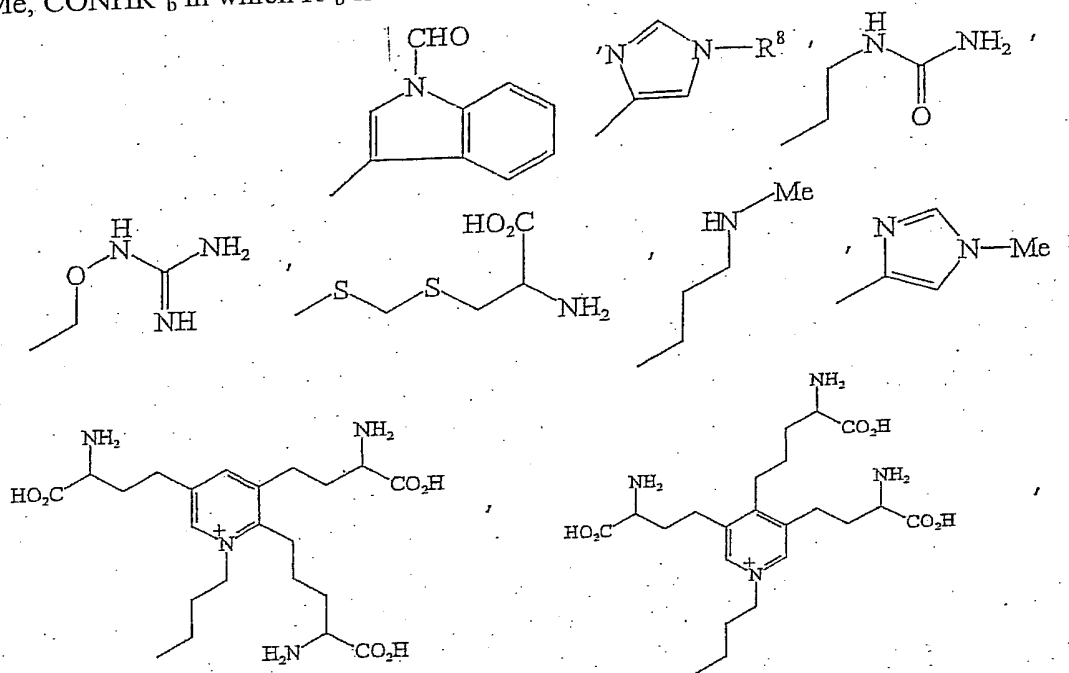


IV

in which

R^1_b is an N-protecting group;

R^2_b is CHOAcMe or CHR^5R^6_b in which R^5 is as defined above and R^6_b is OAc , SBn , SMe , CONHR^1_b in which R^1_b is as defined above,



CO^2H or $\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{H}$;

(b) oxazolidination of the compound of formula IV to form the compound of formula II; and

(c) reductive cleavage of the compound of formula II to form the compound of formula I.

6. (Original) A process according to claim 5, in which the conversion step (a) results in the protection of the amino group on the compound of formula III to produce the compound of formula IV.

7. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 5 or claim 6, in which the oxazolidination step (b) uses a formaldehyde source in an organic solvent.

8. (Original) A process according to claim 7, in which the formaldehyde source is paraformaldehyde and paratoluenesulphonic acid (TsOH).

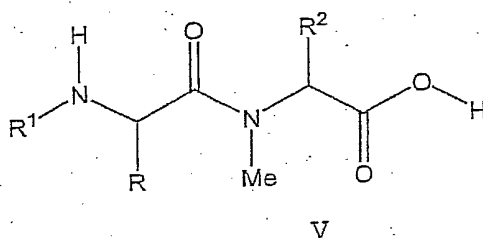
9. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 7 ~~or claim 8~~, in which the organic solvent is benzene or toluene.

10. (Currently amended) Use of the compound of formula I or II defined in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ in the synthesis of peptides.

11. (Currently amended) A peptide which includes the compound of formula I or II as defined in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~.

12. (Original) A peptide according to claim 11, which is a dipeptide.

13. (Original) A peptide according to claim 12, in which the dipeptide is of the formula V



in which

R^1 and R^2 are as defined in claim 1 or claim 2, R' is an optionally protected amino acid side chain and R is H or a carboxyl-protecting group.

14. (Currently amended) A kit for use in synthesising peptides which comprises

(a) at least one compound of formula I or formula II as defined in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ ~~or peptide as defined in any one of claims 11 to 13~~; and

(b) optionally at least one other N-methyl amino acid, its precursor oxazolidinones, an optionally substituted amino acid, or protected forms thereof,

said compounds, N-methyl amino acids, oxazolidinones and/or amino acids being held separately.

15. (New) A kit for use in synthesising peptides which comprises

(a) peptide as defined in claim 11; and

(b) optionally at least one other N-methyl amino acid, its precursor oxazolidinones, an optionally substituted amino acid, or protected forms thereof,

said compounds, N-methyl amino acids, oxazolidinones and/or amino acids being held separately.

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